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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

BUREAU OF INTELLIGENCE AND RESEARCH

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WHAT THE SOVIET PEOPLE ARE BEING TOLD THROUGH SOVIET PRESS AND RADIO
(OCTOBER 29 and 30)

1. Summary

The tone and content of Soviet domestic propaganda during October 30 was set by authoritative articles in Pravda and Izvestiya in which the gravity of the situation during the last few days was stressed and the "wisdom" emphasized of the Soviet decision to dismantle "installations on Cuba depicted by the US as threatening its security." The Soviet press and radio attempted to give the impression that the whole world was grateful to the Soviet Union for its decision to pursue a "calm and statesmanlike" role in the crisis. At the same time denunciations of the United States as an aggressor in Cuba were curtailed or softened, although some commentators still warned of the possible danger of "new provocations," against Cuba. Jamming of VOA broadcasts to the Soviet people was much lighter than during the height of the crisis and seemed to be returning to the normal pre-crisis level.

2. Pravda Article, "From Positions of Reason", Attempts to Credit Khrushchev with Averting Nuclear Catastrophe - In an authoritative article in Pravda for October 30 (repeated by Tass) Soviet correspondents Zhukov and Mayevsky credited the "composure and wisdom" of the Soviet government for reducing the danger for mankind, "which was on the brink of a nuclear catastrophe." The long article claimed that world opinion and "the calm and sagacious voice of reason, the voice of the Soviet government" (contained in Khrushchev's October 28 message) had foiled the plans of the Pentagon to invade Cuba. A clearer impression of how close the situation had come to hostilities was given than in previous Soviet domestic news ^{and} the great "relief" of the American people emphasized at the passing of the crisis. The article ended on a slight warning note stating that "the danger of fresh complications is not precluded" but could be avoided if the US proceeds from "positions of reason" and not from "positions of strength."

3. Izvestiya Editorial "Reason Prevails" - Izvestiya in an editorial on October 30 took essentially the same line as the above editorial in Pravda emphasizing the closeness to which the world had come to a war which would not have been confined to the Cuban area alone. The "far sighted and wise course" of the Soviet Union was described as the "only correct one...which led to the beginning of the normalization of the situation." More details were given on the "decisive step of the Soviet Union which foiled the aggressive plans of attack on Cuba." This step

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was described as "appropriate measures to halt the construction of installations on Cuba which the US depicted as threatening the security of America and to dismantle these installations and return them to the Soviet Union." "All necessary conditions are at hand for complete liquidation of the conflict," Izvestiya states. Editorial ends by claiming world-wide gratitude for Soviet action and stating that it would be premature to exclude the possibility of new provocations against Cuba.

4. Soviet Domestic Broadcasts Show Lack of Consistent Commentary on 29th, Later Emphasize Peaceful Role of Soviet Union - Although the lack of consistent commentary on the Khrushchev-Kennedy exchanges immediately following their publication indicated that Soviet propagandists may have been caught somewhat off base, the central theme of domestic radio propaganda later in the day and on October 30 centered on "the new peace initiative" of the Soviet Union which was bringing "world-wide gratitude and relief."

5. Radio Moscow Tells of Wide Response in US to Khrushchev Dismantling Message - Purporting to quote from an editorial in the New York Times, the Moscow domestic radio spoke of the "wide response in the United States" to Khrushchev's October 28 message. The Times is said to have called the message "an important contribution toward the preservation of world peace" and to have stated that "the liquidation of the crisis, which has shaken the world, can become a turning point in the cold war."

6. Radio Moscow Reduces Denunciations of US - Since the exchange of messages on October 28 Moscow has sharply curtailed and softened its denunciations of US "aggression" against Cuba. The US is still blamed for having started the Cuban crisis, however, and the domestic radio service vaguely warns that the "enemies of peace will still stage provocations to increase international tension."

7. Lifting of US Quarantine Factually Reported by Tass - Late on October 29 Tass wire services carried the brief announcement without comment that the US would lift the Cuban "blockade" for two days during U Thant's visit.

8. Jamming - According to a report from VOA, their broadcasts to the Soviet people were being jammed only at the pre-crisis level, a considerable decrease from that experienced during the Cuban developments prior to October 28. Many news items concerning Cuba were being let through as well as feature articles, with considerably more sensitivity being shown by Soviet jammers against news concerning the Sino-Indian clashes than against Cuban news.

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